**International Prize for DDG/TB**

1579. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to slate:

(a) whether it is a fact that DDG/TB was awarded an international prize; and

(b) if so, the special achievements for which the DDG/TB has been awarded the international prize?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was for his contributions to the fight against Tuberculosis in India in his capacity as Programme Manager of the national TB Control Programme in this country.

**National Health Programme on Blindness in Tamil Nadu**

1580. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to implement National Health Programme on Blindness in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to improve the public awareness of blindness in the State; and

(d) the total number of blind persons in Tamil Nadu as of fast year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) National Programme for Control of Blindness is being implemented throughout the country including Tamil Nadu since 1976. A World Bank Assisted Cataract Blindness Control Project is also being implemented in Tamil Nadu since 1994 under which financial assistance is being provided by Government of India as 100% grants for construction of Operation Theaters, supply of equipments, training of personnel, Grant-in-aid to NGOs etc.

(c) To increase public awareness about Prevention and Control of Blindness, awareness campaigns are being carried out through Television, radio, print media. In addition, organisation of screening camps through NGOs are being carried out.